



Julie Laufenburg

Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Julie Laufenburg

SCHOOL: Walla Walla High School

Position: Art Teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 6 years

Q. Why was it important to add an Advanced Placement art course this year?

A. Our upper end visual arts students needed a goal. They needed an opportunity to really shine and master their skills. This class gives them an opportunity to rise to a new level of excellence.

Q. What are some of the projects students work on in this class?

A. I give my students some broad general ideas centered around painting and drawing. They decide the medium they will use and where they want to go with the project and what they want the piece to be about. They produce a sketch and we talk about it to determine if the project is going to communicate their idea.

Q. How many projects do the students complete?

A. This semester all the students have to complete 10 to 12 projects.

Q. Explain how the group critique lesson works.

A. Each student puts up a piece of artwork that they are working on. They choose the name of a student in class to critique the piece. The student writes down aspects of the piece they think have been done well -- including technique and subject matter. The student critiquing the work also asks questions they have about the piece. The student who created the artwork then talks about the project and what it is about.

Q. Why does this project help students learn?

A. It's amazing how much insight these students have about their own work and about ideas they have to share. It becomes a group collaboration where they exchange ideas constantly.

Over



MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM
JULIE LAUFENBURG'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM JULIE...

This is a combination of Advanced Placement Studio Art and Advanced Studio Art. I have four students participating in the AP program and 14 in the advanced class. At least half of the students in the advanced class have committed to be in AP next year.



I've seen tremendous growth in my students this year. They are taking more risks with their projects and are using different art media they have not tried before.

The AP class format helps students find their personal style.

They learn if they try something new there is going to be an internal reward.